

Appl. No. 09/590,758
Reply to Office Action of June 4, 2004

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a telephone server comprises:
 - receiving an incoming call from a caller;
 - coupling the incoming call to a voice mail server;
 - coupling the incoming call to a voice mail mailbox with the voice mail server;
 - providing a menu of voice mail services to the caller, wherein the menu includes a menu selection to initiate review of incoming voice mail messages, and a menu selection to initiate an outbound call;
 - receiving a request from the caller of the menu selection to initiate an outbound call to a receiver;
 - saving a state of the voice mail server in response to the request;
 - receiving a telephone number of the a receiver of the outbound call from the caller;
 - processing the telephone number to make the outbound call from the caller to the receiver in real-time; and thereafter
 - restoring the state of the voice mail server after the outbound call is terminated.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the request from the caller to initiate the outbound call comprises:
 - detecting a series of DTMF tones from the caller; and
 - determining the request in response to the series of DTMF tones.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the telephone number from the caller comprises detecting a series of DTMF tones from the caller.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein processing the telephone number comprises dialing the series of DTMF tones to make the outbound call.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1

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wherein receiving the telephone number from the caller comprises detecting a spoken phrase from the caller; and

wherein processing the telephone number comprises:

determining a telephone number associated with the spoken phrase; and
dialing the telephone number to make the outbound call.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining a termination of the outbound call;

wherein restoring the state of the voice mail server comprises restoring the state of the voice mail server in response to the termination.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing a dial tone to the caller in response to the request.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for operating a telephone server including a processor comprises:

code configured to direct the processor to detect an incoming call from a caller;
code configured to direct the processor to couple the incoming call to a voice mail server;

code configured to direct the processor to couple the incoming call to a voice mail mailbox with the voice mail server;

code configured to direct the processor to detect a request from the caller to initiate an outbound call to a receiver;

code configured to direct the processor to save a session of the caller within the voice mail server in response to the request;

code configured to direct the processor to detect a telephone number from the caller;

code configured to direct the processor to process the telephone number in real-time to make the outbound call from the caller to the receiver; and

code configured to direct the processor to restore the session of the caller within voice mail server after the outbound call is terminated;

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wherein the codes are stored in a computer readable media.

9. (Original) The computer program product of claim 8 wherein the code configured to direct the processor to detect a request from the caller to initiate an outbound call comprises:

code configured to direct the processor to detect a series of DTMF tones from the caller; and

code configured to direct the processor to detect the request in response to the series of DTMF tones.

10. (Original) The computer program product of claim 8 wherein the code configured to direct the processor to detect the telephone number from the caller comprises code configured to direct the processor to detect a series of DTMF tones from the caller.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 9 wherein the code configured to direct the processor to process the telephone number comprises code configured to direct the processor to dial the series of DTMF tones.

12. (Original) The computer program product of claim 8 wherein the code configured to direct the processor to detect the telephone number from the caller comprises code configured to direct the processor to detect a spoken phrase from the caller; and

wherein the code configured to direct the processor to process the dialing instructions comprises:

code configured to direct the processor to determine a telephone number associated with the spoken phrase; and

code configured to direct the processor to dial the telephone number.

13. The computer program product of claim 8 further comprising code configured to direct the processor to determine a termination of the outbound call;

wherein the code configured to direct the processor to restore the session of the caller within the voice mail server comprises code configured to direct the processor to restore the session of the caller within the voice mail server in response to the termination.

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14. (Currently Amended) A telephone server comprising:

a processor; and

a tangible memory coupled to the processor comprising;

code that directs the processor to couple an incoming call from a caller to a voice mail server;

code that directs the processor to output a menu of available selections to the caller, wherein the menu includes a selection to playback voice mail messages, and a selection to enable the caller to make a telephone call;

code that directs the processor to detect a request from the caller of the selection to enable the caller to make a telephone call to a receiver while the incoming call is coupled to the voice mail server;

code that directs the processor to store a state location of the caller within the voice mail server in response to the request;

code that directs the processor to process a telephone number received from the caller to make the telephone call between the caller and to the a receiver in real-time;

code that directs the processor to determine when the telephone call between the caller and to the receiver is finished; and

code that directs the processor to return to the state location of the caller within the voice mail server when the telephone call to the receiver is finished.

15. (Original) The telephone server of claim 14 wherein the code that directs the processor to detect a request from the caller to make the telephone call comprises:

code that directs the processor to detect a series of DTMF tones from the caller; and

code that directs the processor to determine the request in response to the series of DTMF tones.

16. (Original) The telephone server of claim 14 wherein the code that directs the processor to process the telephone number received from the caller further comprises code that directs the processor to detect a series of DTMF tones from the caller; and

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code that directs the processor to dial the series of DTMF tones.

17. (Original) The telephone server of claim 14 wherein the code that directs the processor to process dialing the telephone number received from the caller further comprises:

code that directs the processor to detect a spoken phrase from the caller; and

code that directs the processor to determine a telephone number associated with the spoken phrase; and

code that directs the processor to dial the telephone number.

18. (Original) The telephone server of claim 14 further comprising code that directs the processor to determine when telephone call is finished; and

wherein the code that directs the processor to return to the location of the caller within the voice mail server comprises code that directs the processor to return to the location of the caller within the voice mail server after the telephone call is finished.

19. (Original) The telephone server of claim 14 wherein the code that directs the processor to determine when telephone call is finished comprises code that directs the processor to detect a pre-defines series of DTMF tones.

20. (Original) The telephone server of claim 14 wherein the code that directs the processor to determine when telephone call is finished comprises code that directs the processor to detect a dial tone.